

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EUR-25 SAB-01 DRC-01

/152 W

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R 181225Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1215

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 0301

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJ: LIKUD CRITICISM OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ESCALATES

REF: TEL AVIV 0284

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. IN SEPERATE PRESS CONFERENCES JAN 17 FOR LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS, LIKUD LEADERS BITTERLY DENOUNCED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND APPEALED TO PM MEIR NOT TO SIGN ANY AGREEMENT UNTIL EIGHTH KNESSET, OPENING JAN 21, HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DEBATE AND VOTE ON AGREEMENT.

2. REITERATING POINTS REPORTED REFTEL, LIKUD CHAIRMAN MENAHEM BEGIN, ACCORDING JERUSALEM POST, CHARGED GOVERNMENT WITH CONTINUING DECEPTION OF PUBLIC SINCE OCT 6
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WAR BY DESCRIBING WITHDRAWAL AS DISENGAGEMENT, HE

CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT FOR ABANDONING ITS OWN POLICIES UNDER WHICH TROOPS WOULD NOT BE MOVED UNLESS EGYPT ENDED STATE OF BELLIGERENCY. BEGIN EXPRESSED FEARS OF EGYPTIAN BREACH OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT, BASED ON ITS DISREGARD OF 1967 AND 1970 CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS AS WELL AS CURRENT CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. FEARED ISRAELI TROOPS COULD BE ATTACKED BY EGYPTIAN ARTILLERY OVER HEADS OF UNEF FORCES. HE AGAIN QUESTIONED RIGHT OF CARETAKER GOVERNMENT TO PRESENT NEW KNESSET WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI ON SUCH FATEFUL ISSUE. BEGIN WARNED THAT " KEY TO NATION'S SECURITY CANNOT BE IN 'FOREIGNER'S' POCKET."

3. LIKUD (FREE CENTER) LEADER SHMUEL TAMIR CHARGED GOVERNMENT WITH ABANDONING POLICY THAT TERRITORY GIVEN UP SOULD BE DEMILITARIZED. HE QUESTIONED EXTENT OF US PRESSURE, TELLING REPORTERS " YOU ARE NOW WITNESSING MIDDLE EAST MUNICH 1973" AND REPORTEDLY CHARGED DR. KISSINGER WITH SERVING MOSCOW'S INTERESTS IN MIDDLE EAST.

4. DR. EHLIMELECH RIMALT (LIBERALS) QUESTIONED VALUE OF US GUARANTEES, WHILE YIGAL HURWITZ (STATE LIST) WARNED THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WOULD GIVE EGYPT CONTROL OF ISRAEL'S AIR SPACE IN SINAI, WITH DIRE CONSEQUENCES TO ISRAELI SECURITY.

5. LIKUD PLANNING PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION AGAINST DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT JANUARY 20 IN TEL AVIV (NOT AT EMBASSY) WITH ARIK SHARON, JUST RELEASED FROM ARMY, TO BE AMONG KEY SPEAKERS.

6. KNESSET DEBATE ON DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT NOW SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 22 (NOT JAN 21 AS REPORTED TEL AVIV 0270) WITH PRIMIN AND BEGIN TO DELIVER KEY SPEECHES.

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